

herself as an expert on public safety issues and was instrumental in decisions to make Aurora a leader in ensuring its citizens had necessary protections with programs including the Victim Advocate program and service on the Officer Standard and Training Board, the Aurora Gang Task Force and the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee. She was active in municipal organizations and has been a respected leader in the National League of Cities, the Denver Regional Council of Governments and the Colorado Municipal League, where she remains a member of the Board of Directors.

Bob LeGare was an Aurora City Councilman for eight years. Devoted to the importance of small business, he worked to make Aurora a partner with businesses to provide jobs and services. He provided leadership on a variety of economic development initiatives including the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, Colorado Commission on Taxation, Aurora Citizens Advisory Budget Committee, Colorado Office of Regulatory Reform Advisory Board, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora Association of Realtors and the Aurora Realtor Governmental Affairs Committee and further contributed to the community through Leadership Aurora, Aurora Museum Foundation, Aurora Open Space Board and the Aurora Boys and Girls Club.

Edna Mosley spent 12 years serving Aurora as a City Councilwoman. She championed issues of importance to veterans and military retirees and worked to promote volunteerism, diversity and the enhancement of the cultural arts in the community. She was instrumental in the formation of the Aurora Youth Commission and served with distinction on the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority Executive Committee, Aurora Economic Development Council, Denver International Airport Business Partnership, Lowry Economic Recovery Project, Adams County Economic Development Council, Community College of Aurora Advisory Council and Aurora Business Advisory Board.

John Paroske completed ten years of public service as a City Councilman last month. An accountant, John offered his financial expertise and worked hard to make sure Aurora taxpayers knew their resources were being used wisely. He devoted countless hours to make Aurora a better place through his work on the Economic Development Committee, E-470 Authority, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Utility Budget Committee, Visitors Promotion Fund, Aurora Education Foundation, Spirit of Aurora, Community Housing Services and Aurora Rotary Club.

Dave Williams served 11 years during two different stints as a member of the Aurora City Council. He worked to improve the efficiency of the City by encouraging better review processes and more efficient administration. He represented the views of his constituents by promoting business and development in an effort to improve the City's quality of life. He has been a leader in the business community as illustrated by his experience on the Aurora Economic Development Council, E-470 Authority, Aurora Rotary Club and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.

These outstanding public servants deserve our thanks and admiration. Their work on behalf of the people of Aurora has improved quality of life in innumerable ways. They leave

big shoes for their successors to fill. We are honored to have served with them and offer our best wishes for future success.

RECOGNIZING DREW QUINTON THOMPSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Drew Quinton Thompson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 60, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Drew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the eight years Drew has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 62 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Troop Guide, and Librarian. Drew is a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and has received the Arrow of Light Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Drew completed a walking trail at Mark Youngdahl Conservation Center in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Drew Quinton Thompson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MRS. ZELMA WITT

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of being one of fourteen students in Mrs. Zelma Witt's first kindergarten class in Omaha, Texas. Today, I honor Mrs. Zelma Witt for her love of learning and thank her for the wonderful gifts she bestowed on all of the students who were blessed to be in her classroom.

Mrs. Witt left an indelible mark on the lives of countless students during their earliest and most formative years of schooling. Mrs. Witt taught her young pupils the most fundamental building blocks of education, setting her students on a path toward higher education and brighter futures.

I feel honored to have been a part of Mrs. Witt's first kindergarten class and part of the commitment to learning that she ingrained in her young students. May God bless you, Mrs. Witt. Thank you for all the gifts you have given us.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE RE-OPENING OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to be present at the grand re-opening of the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers. The Conservatory is considered by many to be the jewel of Golden Gate Park and the City of San Francisco. It is a monument to biodiversity, renewal, and beauty.

Congratulations to all those who joined forces in the fight to restore our Conservatory: John Murray, President of San Francisco Recreation & Parks Commission; Scott Medbury, Director of the Conservatory; Rebecca Green, President of Friends of Recreation & Parks; and Elizabeth Goldstein, General Manager of Recreation & Parks. Thank you for your vision and your leadership. The people of San Francisco, future generations of San Franciscans and visitors alike, owe you a great debt of gratitude.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Richard Goldman, one of San Francisco's most generous citizens. His support of our City and our environment is immeasurable. His tremendous contribution to the Conservatory in honor of his late wife, Rhoda, led the way. Many other extremely generous families followed; the Madeleine Haas Russell family and the Fisher, Friend and Taube families. These families have graciously supported so many of San Francisco's treasures for decades.

This grand undertaking could never have been realized without the leadership of our Mayor, Willie Brown. This is yet another project marked by excellence, effectiveness, and success. It is fitting that this extensive project was completed under his watchful eye. Mayor Brown raised the visibility of the project to a national level and used his unique abilities to develop private public partnerships.

An army of volunteers worked non-stop since the devastating windstorm of 1995 to make this day happen. The 124 year old conservatory was thought to have sustained irreparable damage. Of the \$25 million needed for this massive rehabilitation, \$15 million came from individual donations. The prospect of the Conservatory's imminent destruction was unthinkable to the people of San Francisco. They had the wisdom to know that its beauty could never be rivaled or replicated. They were stubborn and unrelenting in their demand that we preserve this architectural masterpiece. Because of their labor of love, we once again can view the exquisite beauty outside and experience the lush splendor within. Their talent, commitment and dedication to this magnificent project honors our patron saint, St. Francis, honors nature, and honors God's creation.

Today we can once more enjoy the stunning high altitude orchids, the giant cycads, and the rest of the 1,500 species of plants from over 50 countries. In addition to the tropical paradise that we all remember, there are new displays to inspire visitors to appreciate and conserve our planet's extraordinary biodiversity.

San Francisco is proud to be the home of the oldest glass and wood conservatory in the